

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 AF-08 ARA-06
NEA-10 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NASA-01 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-01
PRS-01 OES-06 SS-15 USIA-06 /126 W
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FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6313
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USMISSION UN NEW YORK
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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PARM, CCD

SUBJ: CCD: WESTERN GROUP MEETING, MARCH 30, 1977

1. SUMMARY: WESTERN GROUP MET MORNING, MARCH 30, TO DISCUSS
IMPRESSIONS OF FIRST INFORMAL MEETINGS ON CW AND OUTLINE
TACTICS FOR REMAINING MEETINGS. U.S. BRIEFED GROUP ON TOPICS
EXPECTED TO BE ADDRESSED IN CW BILATERALS WITH SOVIETS.
APPROACH TO FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF COMPREHENSIVE NEGOTIATING
PROGRAM ALSO WAS DISCUSSED. END SUMMARY.

2. THE WESTERN GROUP MET MORNING, MARCH 30; UK REP (ASHE)
CHAired. U.S. REP (MEYERS) ASKED WHEN GROUP THOUGHT INFORMALS
ON CHEMICAL WEAPONS (CW) WOULD TERMINATE SO THAT U.S. DEL
COULD APPROACH USSR DEL REGARDING COMMENCEMENT OF US/USSR
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BILATERALS ON CW. ALL AGREED INFORMALS SHOULD FINISH AFTER-
NOON, MARCH 31.

3. FRG REP (SCHLAICH) SAID HE FELT WESTERN GROUP SHOULD
RESPOND TO MISLEADING REMARKS MADE BY USSR REP (LIKHATCHEV)
IN STATEMENT OF MARCH 28. UK EXPERT (HOLMES) SAID THAT IT
WAS NECESSARY FOR WESTERN GROUP TO MAKE CLEAR DISTINCTION

BETWEEN VERIFICATION FOR STOCKPILE DESTRUCTION AND VERIFICATION FOR PRODUCTION AND ASKED IF ANY DELS WOULD ADDRESS THIS ISSUE. NETHERLANDS AND CANADA SAID THEY WOULD HAVE COMMENTS ON VERIFICATION IN THEIR STATEMENTS. ITALIAN REP (DI BERNARDO) SAID GOI WOULD MAKE STATEMENT ON VERIFICATION CHALLENGING SOVIET STANCE ON ADEQUACY OF NATIONAL TECHNICAL MEANS. UK REP SAID HE WOULD MAKE CW STATEMENT IN MARCH 31 PLENARY, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT OBSERVATIONS MADE BY OTHER DELS THUS FAR. SAID HE VIEWED REMARKS ON UK DRAFT MADE THIS SESSION AS REPRESENTATIVE OF INITIAL, NOT FINAL NEGOTIATING POSITIONS. JAPANESE REP (OGISO) SAID HE DID NOT INTEND TO MAKE ANOTHER PLENARY STATEMENT ON CW IN NEAR FUTURE.

4. U.S. REP ASKED U.S. EXPERT (PHELPS) TO BRIEF GROUP ON ISSUES U.S. DEL PLANS TO DISCUSS WITH SOVIETS DURING CW BILATERALS. U.S. EXPERT SAID THAT DISCUSSIONS WOULD BE TECHNICAL DUE TO CURRENT STATE OF U.S. POLICY REVIEW. HE SAID THAT U.S. DEL WOULD ATTEMPT TO GET SOVIETS TO ELABORATE ON VERIFICATION ISSUE. HE STRESSED THAT USG WAS NOT AT POINT OF NEGOTIATING A JOINT INITIATIVE. U.S. EXPERT STATED THAT, DEPENDING ON U.S. POLICY REVIEW, THERE MIGHT BE ANOTHER ROUND OF US-USSR BILATERALS TO BEGIN NEGOTIATION OF INITIATIVE WHICH COULD TAKE FORM OF AGREED PRINCIPLES, POSSIBLY BUT NOT DEFINITELY BEFORE SUMMER SESSION OF CCD.

5. CANADIAN REP SAID "MANY" HOPED TO BE ABLE TO ESTABLISH AD HOC COMMITTEE TO WORK ON CW USING UK DRAFT AND SET OF AGREED PRINCIPLES FROM US-USSR BILATERALS AS BASE. HE ASKED IF IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO PROCEED ON THIS BASIS THIS SUMMER. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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U.S. REP SAID HE DID NOT KNOW, WAS DOUBTFUL ON TIMING, AND THAT HE SAW AGREED PRINCIPLES AS A POSSIBLE "BRIDGE" TO NEGOTIATIONS. ITALIAN REP ONCE AGAIN PUSHED ITALIAN PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON CW FOR SUMMER SESSION AND U.S. REP RE-EMPHASIZED POSITION THAT U.S. WAS NOT YET READY TO DISCUSS TIMING. NETHERLANDS ALTERNATE REP (MEERBURG) ASKED IF IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO SET UP GROUP THIS SUMMER TO WORK OUT PRINCIPLES WHICH WOULD SERVE AS BASIS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF TREATY TEXT NEXT YEAR. CANADIAN REP EXPRESSED FEAR THAT SUCH AN APPROACH WOULD ENCOURAGE NON-ALIGNED TO DEVIATE FROM UK DRAFT. JAPANESE REP EXPRESSED BELIEF THAT ESTABLISHMENT OF WORKING GROUP WOULD BE PREMATURE WITHOUT US-USSR JOINT INITIATIVE.

6. DISCUSSION OF NECESSITY OF CONTINUING DISCUSSIONS ON COMPREHENSIVE NEGOTIATING PROGRAM (CNP) ENSURED. MOST FELT THAT, IN LIGHT OF APPROACHING SSOD, CCD WOULD HAVE TO PRODUCE SOME SORT OF ACCEPTABLE PROGRAM, IF ONLY FOR APPEARANCES AT UNGA. CANADIAN REP SAID "CCD IS BATTLING FOR ITS OWN CREDIBILITY WITH THE SSOD" AND THAT IT WAS NECESSARY FOR CCD TO BE "MORE

FORTHCOMING" ON CNP. U.S. DEL (KENYON) SAID THAT WESTERN GROUP MUST INSIST THAT ANY WORKING GROUP ESTABLISHED TO CONSIDER CNP MUST BE A WORKING GROUP OF THE WHOLE RATHER THAN A SMALLER WORKING GROUP. FRG REP SUGGESTED THAT A VAGUE GENERALIZED DECLARATION ON CNP MIGHT APPEASE THE ZEALOTS. NO SPECIFIC COURSE OF ACTION WAS DECIDED BUT U.S. REP SAID ISSUE COULD BE BROUGHT UP IN CCD AT ANY TIME.

7. NEXT MEETING OF WESTERN GROUP SCHEDULED FOR MORNING, APRIL 6.SORENSEN

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